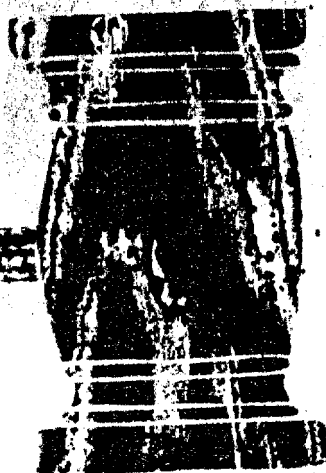


Military Establishment Under Attack

A major paradox confronts the nation. At a time of new world danger and new reliance on our military strength, fears of what President Eisenhower called "the military-industrial complex" have grown . . .



THE
CASE
AGAINST



THE United States is confronted with a paradox. In a period of unrelenting and increasing danger in which the nation's military may be called upon at any moment in almost any part of the world to act in the country's interest, the military establishment is at the same time under attack from elements within the United States. What is the nature of this attack and its source? Is it valid?

The role of the military in American democratic society was given fresh scrutiny following President Eisenhower's "warning" on leaving the White House. After observing that the quest for peace had been continuously threatened by international communism and that our very survival was at stake, the President took note of what he described as a "permanent armaments industry of vast proportions." While this complex was clearly a necessity, he said, the structure of our democratic society was at stake:

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous use of misplaced power exists and will persist."

This statement by President Eisenhower in his farewell address reflected a view that he had held during his tenure in the White House. Whether this opinion originated in Eisenhower's assumption that there was, in fact, a serious possibility of a military coup, or whether it was primarily nurtured by fiscal considerations, is not clear. It is entirely possible that both elements were involved. However, it was well established that Eisenhower had for some time been particularly annoyed by pressure from armaments manufacturers and the Congress for increased expenditures devoted to the development of new weapons.

In a news conference of November 4, 1959, he replied to a suggestion by ABMA's Dr. Werner von Braun (Director, Development Operations Division, Army Ballistic Missile Agency) and ARPA's Roy W. Johnson (Director of DoD's Advanced Research Projects Agency) that the Saturn project should be developed on a crash basis by observing that, "I have never seen any specialist of any kind that was bashful in asking for federal money." The effect of President Eisenhower's speech was to heighten fears and reinforce similar opinions that had been expressed for some time.

Fear of military influence has risen sharply. That is true in a period of grave danger, while a panic is clearly explainable. The impact of President Eisenhower's remarks was significant. Walter Reuther, who in Eisenhower's last years as President had been highly critical of the White House, was one of the